

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 IO-10 ISO-00 ARA-06 EA-06 EUR-12 NEA-09

CG-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00

ACDA-05 ERDA-05 AGR-05 DOTE-00 FMC-01 INT-05 JUSE-00

OMB-01 CIEP-01 CEA-01 AID-05 CEQ-01 COA-01 COME-00

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FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3438

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

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FROM NORDQUIST

USUN FOR AMBASSADOR STEVENSON

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLOS EFIS MR

SUBJECT: LOS: CONSULTATIONS WITH MAURITANIA

1. SUMMARY. GIRM CAN BE EXPECTED TO SUPPORT GROUP OF
77 POSITION ON LOS ISSUES AT GENEVA CONFERENCE SESSION.
END SUMMARY.

2. ON FEBRUARY 26 AND 27 DEPT LOS OFFICER NORDQUIST AND
EMB POL OFFICER SMITH MET FORMALLY TWICE WITH BADRA ALY TOURE,
MFA AND INFORMALLY AT CHARGE RESIDENCE WITH BAL MOHAMED EL
MOKTAR, MFA, THIAM KALIDOU, DIRECTORATE OF FISHERIES,
ISHAQ OULD RAGEL, DIRECTORATE OF MINES AND ABDOU OULD HAHCHEM,
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UN SECRETARIAT (ON HOME LEAVE). ALSO MADE CALL ON ACTING
SECRETARY GENERAL OF MINISTRY OF PLAN AND INDUSTRIALIZATION,

MOHAMED EL MOKTAR OULD ZAMEL.

3. SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS WERE HANDICAPPED BY ABSENCE OF SIDI OULD CHEIKH ABDELLAHI, WHO LED GIRM DELEGATION AT CARACAS. TOURE FOLLOWED COMMITTEE I AT CARACAS AND WAS ESPECIALLY KNOWLEDGEABLE RE DEEP SEABED ISSUES.

4. TOURE SEES ARTICLE 9 IN COMMITTEE I AS KEY TO SUCCESSFUL NEGOTIATION. ONCE THAT QUESTION IS SATISFACTORILY RESOLVED QUOTE EVERYTHING WILL FALL IN PLACE UNQUOTE. POSSIBLE PASSAGE OF INTERIM MINING LEGISLATION BY US CONGRESS WAS OF GREAT CONCERN TO GIRM. TOURE, AT LEAST, FEELS INTENSELY THAT "COMMON HERITAGE" SHOULD BENEFIT DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. HE WAS UNYIELDING ABOUT COASTAL STATE SEABED JURISDICTION ENDING AT 200 MILES AND WANTED INTERNATIONAL AUTHORITY TO EXPLOIT CONTINENTAL MARGIN BEYOND. WHEN NORDQUIST EXPLAINED US POSITION AND REMARKED THAT COMPLETELY RIGID STAND BY AFRICANS MIGHT SPELL FAILURE OF CONFERENCE, TOURE WOULD ONLY SAY THAT GIRM POSITION WOULD BE DECIDED AT GENEVA. TOURE STRESSED THAT INTERNATIONAL AUTHORITY SHOULD INCLUDE "PLANNING COMMISSION" WHICH WOULD INSURE BOTH RATIONAL EXPLOITATION AND ORDERLY MARKETING OF RESOURCES. (GIRM IS, NO DOUBT, CONCERNED ABOUT FURTHER DETERIORATION OF PRICE RECEIVED FOR ITS SMALL RESERVE OF COPPER SHOULD DEEP SEA EXPLOITATION DRASTICALLY AUGMENT WORLD SUPPLY.) GIRM FAVORS CONTROLS BY AUTHORITY TO PREVENT ADVERSE ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS FOR LAND BASED PRODUCERS OF MINERALS THAT MIGHT BE EXPLOITED IN DEEP SEABED.

5. GIRM APPARENTLY FAVORS COMPLETE COASTAL STATE CONTROL OF MARINE POLLUTION AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN 200-MILE ECONOMIC ZONE. TOURE STRESSED THAT NO POLLUTION REGULATIONS WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO GIRM IF THEY WERE DEEMED DETRIMENTAL TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. HOWEVER, GIRM SUPPORTS FREEDOM OF NAVIGATION IN ZONE. GIRM IS PLEASED ABOUT RECOGNITION OF COASTAL STATE PREFERENCE FOR COASTAL FISHERY STOCKS. HOWEVER, KAIYOU STATED THAT SOVIETS, JAPANESE, SPANISH, GHANISANS, FRENCH AND OTHERS HAVE BILATERAL FISHERIES AGREEMENTS AND ARE ALREADY BUYING LICENSES TO FISH WITHIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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GIRM 30-MILE TERRITORIAL SEA (MEASURED FROM EXTENSIVE BASELINE). GIRM HAS NO OFFSHORE PETROLEUM BUT SEVERAL COMPANIES ARE EXPECTED TO UNDERTAKE EXPLORATION. MAURITANIANS ARE INTERESTED IN BUILDING UP THEIR FISHING CAPACITY IN THEIR RICH COASTAL WATERS AND HOPE TO ATTRACT PRIVATE CAPITAL FOR FISH PROCESSING PLANT.

6. GIRM APPARENTLY SUPPORTS PRINCIPLE OF DISPUTE SETTLEMENT FOR LOS, PARTICULARLY TRIBUNAL FOR DEEP SEABED.

7. WE UNDERSTAND MAURITANIAN LOS DELEGATION AT GENEVA WILL CONSIST OF SIDI OULD CHEIKH ABDULLAHI, BODRA ALY TOURE, AND ELWALY N'DAW, DIRECTOR OF FISHERIES WHO WAS OUT OF TOWN DURING VISIT.

8. COMMENT: MAURITANIA WILL BE A CLOSE FOLLOWER, BUT NOT A LEADER, IN GROUP OF 77 ON LOS. INITIAL COOLNESS OF TOURE HAD MELTED BY THIRD MEETING, AND PERSONAL RELATIONS BETWEEN GIRM AND US ON LOS HAVE DEFINITELY BEEN BOOSTED BY VISIT. HOWEVER, IT WAS CLEAR TOURE WAS OFFERING NO NOVEL IDEAS OR VOLUNTEERING ANY NEW INFORMATION. WHEN PRESSED ABOUT POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS TO PROBLEMS, HE WOULD REFER EITHER TO NEGOTIATIONS WITH GROUP OF 77 IN GENEVA OR TO HIS HEAD OF DELEGATION.

9. EMBASSY REQUESTS DEPARTMENT POUCH SOONEST AVAILABLE FRENCH TRANSLATIONS OF US LOS POSITIONS FOR GENEVA CONFERENCE. SHINN

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